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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC# 02036/88
7 June 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: MG Larry D. Budge, USA
National Intelligence Officer for
General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT: 31 May 1988 Meeting with Senate Staff Members on Net Assessments

1. On 31 May I met with Jeffrey Smith, General Counsel to the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senator Nunn's designee to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI). He was accompanied by Richard D. Finn, Professional Staff Member to the Senate Armed Services Committee. I was accompanied by [redacted] Assistant National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces. Also present were [redacted] Office of Congressional Affairs, and [redacted] Office of Soviet Analysis. STAT STAT STAT

2. The staffers asked for the meeting to review the status of Intelligence Community participation in the net assessment process and to determine the extent to which Interagency Net Assessments were being conducted. The Senate Armed Services Committee apparently plans to discuss net assessment during their review of the Intelligence Authorization Act in about two weeks. They also suggested that the Committee might provide further guidance on the subject of net assessment to the Intelligence Community, DoD, or both. The staffers made it clear that members of the Senate Armed Services Committee were primarily interested in the net assessment of specific weapons systems. The Senators want to use results of these net assessments as a major input into their decisions on DoD requests to procure the specific weapons systems. Smith acknowledged that this was expecting a great deal of the net assessment methodology. The Senators were also interested in strategic net assessments (such as the Chairman's Military Net Assessment), but this interest was secondary to weapons systems net assessments.

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3. I reviewed, briefly, the evolution of NIO/GPF's participation in the net assessment process since last summer and concluded that we were making good progress, particularly with the Chairman's Military Net Assessment. I mentioned that we had had some problems with getting data from DIA but that the situation had improved significantly. I discussed the role of the Red Advisory Panel, on which the Intelligence Community is represented, and the procedures we were using to coordinate issues and data within the Intelligence Community. While not antagonistic in their reaction, the staffers pointed out that DIA's serving as the "primary action agent" had the potential to be self-serving. I pointed out that my involvement was designed to prevent that happening. DIA had the manpower, the expertise, and the experience; therefore, it was quite logical for me to appoint them the "primary action agent." I tried to impress upon the staffers that Intelligence Community involvement in DoD/JCS net assessments was a new phenomena and some in DoD were still wary of our participation. However, we are making progress. I suggested that the Senate Armed Services Committee wait until they see the Chairman's Military Net Assessment before giving us any further guidance.

4. The staffers then inquired why there were no more net assessments than the five listed in the plan sent to congress. In fact, four of these net assessments are subsets of the Chairman's Military net Assessment so there are really only two net assessments. My answer was that DoD had not recommended any others. We had raised the issue of weapons systems net assessments at the time the plan was drafted and DoD said they had no weapons systems which required net assessments. I provided the staffers a copy of the recently developed Net Assessment Coordinating Committee (NACC) Charter which requires the preparation of an annual plan for Interagency Net Assessments. The Intelligence Community is an equal participant with DoD in developing this plan; both the DDI and the NIO/GPF sit on the NACC. However, DoD should be the one to propose most of the net assessments since it is normally DoD forces, strategy, and weapons system which are being assessed. I stressed that the staffers really needed to talk with DoD to discuss the issue of additional net assessments. They promised that they would. The staffers asked if the Intelligence Community was prepared to do weapons system net assessments and I assured them that we were, if and when the requirement was placed on the table. I also discussed the resource implications to the Intelligence Community of becoming heavily involved in this sort of net assessment. Analysts who are tied up doing net assessments are not doing intelligence analysis, which is the primary mission of the Intelligence Community. [redacted] pointed out that it was not only a question of numbers, but that it was the demand on limited numbers of highly qualified analysts that created the problem. I have asked [redacted] to develop the manpower figures involved in providing Intelligence Community support to the Chairman's Military net Assessment. STAT STAT

5. We also briefly discussed the status of the Net Technical Assessment on [redacted]. I informed them that we were coming up to speed and fully expected that we would be able to do it in accordance with the plan. The staffers were not particularly interested in this assessment as it deals primarily with pure technology rather than weapons systems. STAT

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6. My assessment of the meeting is that the staffers understand the Intelligence Community position and they are somewhat sympathetic to us on the issue of resources. They are sceptical of DIA's ability to remain impartial in their role as "primary action agent" for the Intelligence Community. Although I do not know the results of their meetings with DoD, I believe that DoD will continue to resist doing any real weapons systems net assessments. In that case, I suspect that we will receive further guidance from the Senate Armed Services Committee. I think it likely that DoD and the Intelligence Community will be directed to do Interagency Net Assessments of certain weapons system selected by the Senate Armed Services Committee. There is also the possibility, which I think is less likely at this time, that the Intelligence community will be directed to conduct net assessments on our own. I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Larry D. Budge

cc: Director/OCA
DDI

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